

John Caldwell Calhoun to Andrew Jackson, June 1, 1820, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

SECRETARY CALHOUN TO JACKSON.

Private

War Department, June 1, 1820.

Dear Sir, I have received your unofficial letters of the 15th April and 5th of May; and I regard your determination to retire from the Army with that regret, which I am sure a great majority of our people will feel on the occasion. To you and the army the separation must be painful. Your name will forever be associated with the most brilliant pages of our history; and the memory of the 8th of January will, to the latest posterity, rouse the American Army to the highest feats of valour. To be so connected with our military institutions and history must render your adieu to the army painful indeed.

I perceive you have strong foreboding as to our future policy. The discussion on the Missouri question has undoubtedly contributed to weaken in some degree the attachment of our southern and western people to the Union; but the agitators of that question have, in my opinion, not only completely failed; but have destroyed to a great extent their capacity for future mischief. Should Missouri be admitted at the next session, as I think she will without difficulty, the evil effects of the discussion must gradually subside. As it regards the army and the acquisition of Florida, the greatest opposition has by no means been experienced to the east. However strange it may appear, the portion of our country, which appears to have the greatest interest in the acquisition, I mean the West, was probably that, in which the most opposition was experienced. So unnatural a state of things cannot

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exist long. The west must see, that the single Port of Pensacola is to it, invaluable. The protection of the commerce of the Mississippi must in a great measure depend on our acquisition of it